

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are currently pending in the application. Claim 3 has been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 3. Claims 2 and 4 have been amended for consistency with claim 1. Claim 4 has also been amended to change its dependence due to the cancellation of claim 3.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 3 and 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

In particular, the Examiner alleged that:

[I]t is unclear whether the phrase 'said control circuit chooses as a subject of entry substitution an entry that has been previously referred to' is referring to that which had been previously referred to by more than one of the 'plurality of instructions contained under a single VLIW instruction' during the execution of that single VLIW instruction, or as a result of a VLIW instruction executed at a previous point in time

Applicants respectfully submit that the claim is clear as recited. The specification clearly states that entry substitution is executable even when continuous entry substitution requests occur under the same VLIW. Therefore, "an entry that has been previously referred to," means an entry that has been previously referenced, regardless of whether the VLIW is the same.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,737,752 (Hilditch).

As claims 3-8 have been indicated as being allowable, by incorporating all of the limitations of the allowable claim 3, claim 1 should be allowable as well. In addition, as claim 2 is dependent on claim 1, claim 2 should also be allowable.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after the response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to the matters.

Serial No. 10/776,266

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of the Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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